lume 13, no. 1 september, 1960

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SOCIAL ACTION EDITOR BEGINS NEW CAREER

Miss Fern Babcock, since 1955 Publications Secretary and Editor of SOCIAL ACTION for the Council for Social Action (Congregational Christian) and since 1957 for the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, has resigned her position as Editor and staff member effective October 1, 1960.

MRS. GRANT

On June 12 at Riverside Church in New York City, in a joyous and solemn wedding ceremony conducted by the Reverend Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, and the Reverend Gordon Gilkey, a minister of the church, she became Mrs. Alexander J. Grant.

Mr. Grant, a missionary under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, has been teaching at Silliman University in the Philippines. With her husband, Mrs. Grant will be engaging in work under the American Board in Manila.

Miss Babcock came to the staff of the Council after giving outstanding leadership on the staff of the National Student YWCA. She has had responsibility for the Christian social action institutes conducted by the Council each summer and for many other similar programs. She has been a valued member of the staff and has been frequently consulted by the Women's Guild, the Women's Fellowship, and the Christian Education agencies in the planning of program materials and in writing.

Our best wishes go with the Grants as they launch their new work in the Philippine Republic.

Launch Emphasis On Freedom

During the past two years the Protestant and Orthodox Churches cooperating in the National Council of Churches have endeavored to co-ordinate their emphases in the area of Christian life and work. Thus during the past year special attention has been given to international affairs through the Nationwide Program of Education and Action for Peace.

The emphasis for the year 1960-61 is "Christian Responsibility for Freedom." This Emphasis is intended to help to clarify and deepen the churches' understanding of Christian freedom, to develop a clearer understanding of the proper relationships between church and state, to focus attention on the correction of abuses and injustices by legislative, judicial, or executive action, and to strengthen a sense of continuing responsibility for social education and action in the congregations making up the major non-Roman church life of our country.

The timeliness of this emphasis is very well indicated both by the common misunderstanding of what freedom is and by the dangerous efforts to limit the freedom of individual persons and of organized groups such as churches in fulfilling their function in society. For example, the fact that the United States Air Force issued a manual, now happily withdrawn, which contained libelous and misleading statements about the National Council of Churches and about the leadership of the churches in this country is a serious enough breach of the proper relationship between an arm of government and free churches. Perhaps even more ominous, however, is the fact that here and there individual members and congregations of various denominations were

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

CCSA Supports Sit-ins, Health Aid for Aging

In a statement adopted June 15, 1960 the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ added its voice to hundreds of other thoughtful groups in church, in labor, in civic and in community life, as supporting the widespread protest against racial segregation in lunch counters.

Pointing out that such violence as has occurred has been instigated by those who have attacked persons engaged in peaceful demonstrations, the statement commends the students for "their self-discipline and exemplary behavior in the face of provocation." It calls refusal of equal service "morally indefensible," and urges Christians to join in support of the struggle for freedom, dignity, and equality.

At the same time, the Council went on record in support of national legislation favoring the principle of medical aid to the aging. In its statement the Council does not specifically endorse any one of the several bills which have been before Congress this year. It says, "We believe the costs of medical services to these persons (retired people with limited resources) should be met in the most equitable manner possible, either through the social security system or through a program of general taxation, so that no aging person shall ever lack proper care because of economic inability or be subjected to indignity in order to qualify for it."

Of the 15,000,000 persons 65 years and over, nearly four-fifths are beneficiaries of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, receiving an average of $72 a month from the OASI fund. Many of the others not covered by social security are largely dependent on welfare grants administered in part by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The text of these statements is printed as a supplement to this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. Additional copies may be secured at 2 cents each.

STATE AND SYNOD CHAIRMEN TO MEET WITH CCSA

Chairmen of state conference and synod committees on Christian social action will gather in St. Paul, Minnesota on the campus of Macalester College September 6 to 9 for a four day program held in connection with the semi-annual meeting of the Council for Christian Social Action.

Beginning on Tuesday evening, the chairmen will consider the functions of the state and synod committee, compare notes as to their programs, and participate in meetings of the Council.

Among the special features which are projected at this meeting are a panel on labor-management relations and a report on the progress of the Greater Minneapolis Interfaith Fair Housing program, in which the CCSA has contributed approximately one-half the funds for a three year term.

This marks the first time that such a national meeting has been held since the formation of the United Church of Christ and it is believed that the interchange of information about their various experiences will be helpful to both the Council and to the committees involved.

LAUNCH EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

misled or intimidated by these charges. Had they really understood the meaning and purpose of the church and the significance of Christian responsibility for the good of man and society, there would have been even more widespread support of the principle that the church must fulfill its responsibility to examine all issues and to speak critically and helpfully to them without any impugning of the character or motives of those who speak.

At any rate, the present Emphasis is an excellent opportunity for pastors, established groups such as laymen's and women's organizations, social action committees, and special "made to order" study groups to inquire into the nature of Christian freedom and of our responsibility to maintain it as well as the character of the threats to this freedom within or without and the best ways of combating these threats.

With this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY there is being sent to most readers a leaflet explaining this Emphasis. Additional copies may be secured in small quantities from the offices of the Council for Christian Social Action. A study packet, *Christian Responsibility for Freedom,* is available from the Council office at $1. This includes a *Case Book* containing valuable case material and a guide to discussion of the theological and social principles involved which may be secured at 50c each, 50 copies for $17.50. The September 1960 issue of SOCIAL ACTION magazine will deal with the topic "Christian Freedom and Responsibility," and may be secured for 25c in single copies, 10 to 99 copies at 20c, 100 or more copies at 15c each. Both of these items are included in the packet, together with many other valuable pieces of literature, such as the useful pamphlet. "The Truth About the Churches," detailing the record of the National Council of Churches and the nature of the attacks upon it.

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Denominational Time Table

The following time table is suggested for Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Church guidance in following through this Emphasis.

May	Publication of "Planks for the Party Platforms" in SOCIAL ACTION
June-July	Training for the emphasis on freedom featured in summer Christian social action institutes
September	SOCIAL ACTION issue on "Christian Responsibility for Freedom"
	Conference of state and synod social action chairmen, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 6-9
October to December	Cooperate with Councils of Churches on training institutes
	Encourage local church discussion groups using case book and hearing Pilgrimage radio broadcasts
	Encourage participation in fall elections
January to May	Study groups and other programs in local churches, emphasizing Christian Responsibility for Freedom

IT IS NOT TOO LATE

It is not too late—but it soon will be—to register for the CCSA's 14th World Order and United Nations Seminar to be held in New York City October 25 to 27.

The Seminar features lectures and discussions on Tuesday on such topics as Africa, Living With Communist Nations, and World Economic Development. Wednesday is spent at the United Nations visiting the General Assembly and UN committees if they are in session, and meeting with members of the Secretariat.

The Tuesday and Thursday sessions are held at the attractive World Affairs Center, United Nations Plaza at 47th Street. Registration fee and Seminar dinner costs $6.50. Checks payable to the Council for Christian Social Action should be sent to the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

WHAT CAN I DO?

How often have you asked yourself this question or have used it to express your inability to take hold of the difficult problem of international relations?

The Reverend Herman F. Reissig, International Relations Secretary for the Council for Christian Social Action, has now prepared just the proper tool to provide an answer to this question. In a brief memorandum entitled *What Can I Do?* he offers a number of suggestions for action in international affairs.

Copies may be secured at 10c each, from either the New York or the Cleveland office.

Dr. Park J. White, a "beloved physician" of St. Louis and a member of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches as well as an advisory member of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church, contributes the following paraphrase of Philippians 4:8:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are controversial, whatsoever things are of social significance, whatsoever things are nonconformist, whatsoever things are of bad report; if there be any reform, if there be any peace-making, think on these things."

Statements of the Council for Christian Social Action
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Supplement to
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
September, 1960

STATEMENT ON MEDICAL CARE FOR THE AGING

Adopted by the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, June 15, 1960

WHEREAS nearly every person who reaches the retirement ge of 65 can anticipate many more years of life; and

WHEREAS statistical studies have shown that retired per-ns now have a median income of less than $1,000 annually, an mount which is inadequate to meet present human needs; and

WHEREAS experience has indicated that the health needs most aging persons cannot be met adequately on the restricted come usually received after retirement; and

WHEREAS there is widespread recognition of the need for reful study and support of proposals for meeting existing de-iencies in health insurance, so that those with limited means ay be protected against the insecurity and anxiety of ill health,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for Christian Social ction of the United Church of Christ favors legislation de-gned to provide insurance against the costs of hospital, nurs-g home, medical and surgical services for all retired and sabled persons, and urges favorable consideration of such legis-tion by state legislatures and the Congress of the United ates.

We would encourage the purchase of voluntary private health insurance by those who have the means to do so. But we must not lose sight of the inadequacy of these programs to serve many of the neediest cases, and we should recognize the responsibility of all citizens in our industrialized society to share in meeting the health needs of those whose limited resources cannot be expected to pay for adequate insurance. We believe the costs of medical service to these persons should be met in the most equitable manner possible, either through the social security system or through a program of general taxation, so that no aging person shall ever lack proper care because of economic inability or be subjected to indignity in order to qualify for it.

We look to the time when health insurance programs will provide not only for the costs of hospital, nursing home, medical and surgical care, as suggested in legislation now before the Eighty-Sixth Congress, but also pay for preventive care which can be given at much less expense in a patient's home.

We urge church members to give careful consideration to this subject and to express their convictions to their respective legislators.

Statement in Support of the Students Protesting Segregation

Adopted by the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, June 15, 1960

Since February 1, 1960, we have seen a unique and potent ove against racial segregation in the United States. Negro udents in the South have launched and carried on a widespread ries of protests against segregated lunch counter facilities. he protests have taken the form of organized "sit-ins" at the nch counters along with picketing, boycotts, and other ac-ptable forms of non-violent action. Such violence as has oc-rred has been precipitated by those who seek to deny a basic man right. The action has received extensive support from th Negro and white students in all parts of the country. rimarily a student movement, it is heartening to note that this s also been entered into by other responsible groups inter-ted in establishing racial equality in America.

According to the letter of the law the owner or manager a private business may have the right to "refuse service to nyone." The spirit of the law, however, implies that such fusal be based on a sound and morally defensible reason. ace, religion, language or color of skin do not constitute such reason. There is the further fact that in the stores involved e patronage of Negroes is solicited at other counters, whereas they are discriminated against at the counters where food is served. This refusal of equal service is clearly discriminatory and therefore morally indefensible.

This is the surface situation. The basic issue runs far deeper than the comparatively simple matter of being able to purchase a cup of coffee and drink it along with other customers. In these demonstrations there is caught up the yearning of the human spirit for freedom, dignity, and equality. Here is a symbol of protest against all forms of discrimination. This is the struggle not of one group alone, but of all. It is a struggle of humanity for humanity's sake.

We commend the students of America, Negro and white, North and South, who have so challenged the conscience of their country. Especially do we commend their high motivation and their courage, their self-discipline and exemplary behavior in the face of provocation. We support their demand for the recognition of human dignity and urge all Christians to join us in such support to the end that this nation, under God, shall indeed have a new birth of freedom.

Additional Copies of these Statements may be secured at 2 cents each, from

Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ

289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York

2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

eptember 4—Labor Sunday.
eptember 6 - 9—CCSA meeting with Synod and State Conference chairmen, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota.
ctober 23—World Order Sunday.
ctober 25-27—United Nations—World Order Seminar, New York.
ovember 4—World Community Day.
ovember 8—Election Day.
ovember 9 - 11 — Consultation on the Church and Community Development, Congregational Conference Grounds, Lisle, New York.
nuary 27 - 29, 1961—Council for Christian Social Action. The Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.
bruary 7 - 10—Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washngton, D. C.*
For information Congregational Christians should write to Dr. Ray Gibbons, CCSA, 289 Park Ave., South, New York 10, N. Y., Evangelical and Reformed to Dr. Huber Klemme, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Eastern Group to Study Community Development

The Council for Christian Social ction and the Departments of Town nd Country Church, both Evangelical nd Reformed and Congregational hristian, are collaborating in a Conultation on the Church and Community evelopment.

Meeting at the Congregational Chrisian State Conference Center at Lisle, ew York immediately after Election ay, for the three days November 9 to 1, representatives chosen by the synods nd state conferences in the northeastern ection of the United States will take a harp look at what is happening to small ommunities under the impact of ecoomic and social changes.

Among the resource leaders to adress the conference are Professor Carle C. Zimmerman of the Department of ocial Relations of Harvard University, who will describe what is happening to he small community in our culture; Mr. olomon Barkin, Research Director of he Textile Workers Union of America, who will interpret the economic aspect of xpansion and decline in the changing ommunity; and Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew, Professor of Church and Community at Lancaster Theological Seminary, who will direct the discussion of the opportunities and responsibilities of churches n this field.

The conference will draw from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Representatives will be designated by synods and state conferences and by related agencies.

INVITATION TO AFRICA

The ninteen-sixties have been called "the African Decade." This vast continent no longer sleeps. It fairly boils with life. Only to try to picture Africa ten years from now leaves one breathless. While the eyes of most people in the West have been turned to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa with startling suddenness leaps into prominence . Here every great human question, every important social problem is lifted up. Political independence, economic development, education, religion, the fundamental demand for recognition of human dignity—nowhere else in the world are all these concerns more packed with vital meaning.

High time that Americans, and especially American Christians, should see for themselves the part of the world that will in the years ahead profoundly influence all the rest of the world!

The Council for Christian Social Action is happy to announce its first African Study Tour, planned from June 20 to August 9, 1961. This seminar will visit major African centers south of the Sahara: Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Rhodesia, the Congo, Ghana, Liberia, French West Africa. Some seminar members may go to Johannesburg and Durban in the Union of South Africa.

In addition to interviews with political and cultural leaders and stops at Christion mission stations, there will be opportunity to see great game reserves, to visit "jungle" areas, scarcely touched by technological developments, to ride on famous rivers. To travel with this seminar will be an experience indescribably varied and rich.

The cost: $2500 will cover transportation, food, hotels, sightseeing, tips, baggage transfers, accident and accidental death insurance.

About the leaders: Herman F. Reissig is International Relations Secretary of the Council for Christian Social Action. He has traveled in many countries and led many travel seminars. Mrs. Reissig is Administrative Assistant to the CCSA Director and has been co-leader on four previous travel seminars. Many longtime experts on Africa will assist in the preparation of the program. Arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and most land accommodations are being made by the Sarah Marquis Travel Service, which has had long experience in arranging African tours. Dr. John Reuling, who will accompany the seminar, is the Secretary for Africa of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He has made annual trips to Africa and is intimately acquainted with many of the countries on the itinerary.

The purpose of the Study Tour is to make a contribution to understanding and action in the field of international affairs. Only adults with a definite and sustained interest in international affairs and other social problems should apply. Members will be expected to prepare themselves by special reading. No more than twenty-five persons will be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: Arrangements described above (cost, itinerary, and exact time of leaving and returning) are tentative, final plans being subject to airline schedules and rates and other conditions not foreseeable a year in advance.

AFRICAN STUDY TOUR APPLICATION

The Rev. Herman F. Reissig
Council for Christian Social Action
289 Park Avenue South
New York 10, New York

Date: _____

PLEASE PRINT

I am definitely interested in the possibility of joining the 1961 Africa Study Tour.

Please send the detailed descriptive folder to be issued early in the fall.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Occupation: _____

Local Church: _____

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Once in a while somebody reverses the usual order of events as in the proverbial "man bites dog" story. Mrs. Lloyd R. Stamp of Eugene, Oregon, expressing her appreciation for the "many helpful social action packets" received by local churches from national agencies, sent our office a "local church social action packet," all produced by First Congregational Church. Stimulated by the local committee, 69 men and women participated in a study of "Christian Responsibility on a Changing Planet." Four study groups met weekly throughout March for two-hour discussion sessions. At the end the views of the participants regarding a number of issues considered in the "Peace Study Project" were recorded, tabulated, and reported.

* * * *

The Pittsburgh Synod Committee on Christian Social Action recently took a poll on attitudes of pastors on the issue of religious affiliation of a candidate for the presidency. The results of the poll are as follows:

	Yes	No	No Answer
Do you think a presidential candidate's religion is relevant to his ability to hold this office and fulfill its responsibilities?	71	10	-----
Would you take into consideration the Roman Catholic affiliation of a presidential candidate before voting?	80	1	-----
Given two presidential candidates, equally well qualified, would you decline to vote for one because of his Roman Catholic affiliation?	74	5	2
If a Roman Catholic presidential candidate's qualifications were clearly superior to those of all other candidates, would you vote for him?	31	38	12

In other actions the committee recommended support of the CCSA statements on Responsible Parenthood and called for defeat of the proposal to recognize harness racing and parimutuel betting in several counties of Pennsylvania.

* * * *

On May 15 and 16 the social action committee of the Congregational Christian Conference of North Dakota held a workshop at Bismarck, North Dakota on the theme, "A Roman Catholic in Public Office." Dr. Hugo Thompson, Chairman of the Council for Christian Social Action and Professor of Philosophy at Macalester College, opened the workshop with a concise description of the Roman Catholic Church's organization, main doctrinal teachings, and views on church-state relations. There followed a discussion of Roman Catholic-Protestant friction over school reorganization in a North Dakota community and a report on current articles in national magazines on the workshop's theme. A prominent Roman Catholic lawyer-politician and a priest of that communion joined the workshop for a frank discussion of the subject. Following reviews of recent books and articles on the topic, the group urged that plans should be made for holding similar workshops in local churches. It was felt that the involvement of Roman Catholic representatives made for objectivity and fairness in the discussion of the topic.

* * * *

The Dauphin-Lebanon Regional Women's Guild, at the suggestion of Mrs. Ralph D. Althouse, Christian Social Action Chairman, conducted a series of discussion meetings on social problems at St. Mark's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Topics considered were: "Juvenile Problems," under the direction of Mrs. Sara Leffler, school visitor and Parole Officer; "Narcotics" with Mr. John Hoffman, Investigator for the Narcotics Division, Pennsylvania Department of Health; "Divorce," "The Family" and "Alcoholism." The attendance has averaged 150 persons and the committee has been asked to add to the series a session on "The Christian in Politics."

* * * *

The Social Action Committee of Plymouth Congregational Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin had a lively panel on "Liberty is no Luxury—Liberty is our Security," with Bruce Wallace, Promotion and Public Service Manager of WTMJ; Professor Dale Chastain, Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Professor Reginald Horsman of the History faculty, with the Reverend Gustav Nelsen, Assistant Pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, took a look at witch hunting past and present.

* * * *

There are still reverberations of the Consultation on the Church and the Farm Problem. The Missouri Valley Synod committees on Social Action and Town and Country Church last winter sponsored a workshop featuring the presentation of the movie "Shadow on the Land," a report on the seminar on the Christian Farmer and his Government, and an address by the Reverend Shirley E. Greene, Town and County Church Secretary. The Missouri snows kept the attendance down to 42, but already local congregations are planning similar meetings.

* * * *

The Wisconsin State Conference committee in social action recently held a social action institute at Madison. Work groups considered world peace, mental health, human rights, pressures on youth, and the problems of the aging.

The committee received a warm response from both senators and congressmen when the resolutions adopted by the state conference were forwarded to Washington. Senator Proxmire sent the committee a very thoughtful letter and Senator Wiley included the conference resolutions in the *Congressional Record*. The resolutions dealt with the resettlement of refugees. the disorders in South Africa, the problem of population control, and the threat of atomic destruction.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER, 1960

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.